

IT'S YOUR HONOR

PGA Teamwork

TO THE USGA:

My every effort shall be for the good of golf, which I feel is the greatest of games and one that is of invaluable aid to those fortunate enough to have become players—and I feel that the number who play should be doubled, yes, trebled.

But in all of our aims the PGA desires full and complete cooperation and understanding with the USGA.

JOE NOVAK, PRESIDENT
PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS'
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
LOS ANGELES, CAL.

Pros As Exemplars

TO THE USGA:

I wonder if, without offending the many professionals whose course conduct is above reproach, it is possible for you to bring to the attention of those professionals whose demeanor is open to criticism the importance of their never forgetting that they should be models for Mr. Average Golfer.

At a pro-amateur event held at my course, we had some 50 professionals compete. All too many of them were guilty of entering and leaving traps any old way, instead of from the rear, of paying no attention to the replacement of divots, of throwing litter anywhere instead of into the receptacles, and of entirely ignoring their footprints in traps. There are signs all over the course calling attention to these things.

You can well imagine the effect on a membership schooled to regard such lapses as heinous crimes. The Westchester P.G.A. has already promised to take steps to prevent any repetition of the situation. I am sure you, too, will feel the matter deserves attention and will accept this letter in the spirit in which it is written and take such action as your good judgment dictates, for the good and welfare of the game.

Very truly yours,

MILTON A. JENTES
CHAIRMAN, GREEN COMMITTEE
ELMWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

Regarding Calcutta Pools

In the Autumn issue we quoted remarks of Benjamin F. Jaques at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Golf Association regarding Calcutta pools. The editor of another publication thought Mr. Jaques should specify the evils to which he referred. Mr. Jaques, who is not one to zig-zag when the course lies straight ahead, wrote that editor a friendly letter which is quoted in part below.

"It is my firm conviction that, if pools are allowed to grow unrestrained, they will bring in a gambling element which in past years has caused national scandals in baseball, hockey, and even college basketball. To my knowledge, there has never been a golf match which has been 'fixed.' I hope this never happens. . . .

"When I talked about Calcutta pools, part of what I said included this: 'The American man likes to gamble, and that will obtain in golf as well as in any other sport. I don't believe it is possible or sensible to try and completely curtail this phase, but I am sure all of you realize what can happen if something isn't done to keep the gambling within bounds.' . . .

"I have had a lot of favorable reaction from presidents and other executive officers of golf clubs in this area and not one single unfavorable comment.

"Those concerned with running golf clubs tell me that more dissension and trouble center around their auction and pool than any single event on the year's calendar. It causes serious differences between club members for reasons such as: (a) Handicaps (the winners are always said to be overhandicapped); (b) Unfair tactics in buying up teams at the auction; (c) Questionable actions as regards sportsmanlike play in the course of the tournament, if not actual disregard of some of the rules.

"There are actual cases on record where players owning their own team in four-ball play have tried to buy their way to the final and other instances of this nature which I would rather not discuss in a letter."

Editor's Note: The USGA JOURNAL invites comments on matters relating to the welfare of the game and will publish them as space permits.

